Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 225773 ORIGIN PM-05

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SECRETSTATE 225773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, MNUC, NL

SUBJECT: NPW PORT VISIT PROCEDURES

REF: A. THE HAGUE 4465 (DTG 111050Z AUG 78)
B. STATE 151650
C. CNO WASH DC 171730Z JUN 78
D. USDAO THE HAGUE 201530Z JUN 78
E. USDAO THE HAGUE 101455Z JUL 78

1. SUMMARY. THIS TELEGRAM PRESENTS DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 225773

EMBASSY PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR LANGUAGE IN DUTCH DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE LETTER FOR FORTHCOMING USS VIRGINIA VISIT. TELE-GRAM ALSO PROPOSES SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES TO RESOLVING CONCERNING OVER LANGUAGE IN BARK AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTEL A, ADVISED THAT DUTCH HAD PROPOSED USE OF THE

WORD QUOTE STATEMENT END QUOTE VICE QUOTE ASSURANCES END QUOTE IN THE DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR USS VIRGINIA. PROPOSED WORD CHANGE WAS IN RESPONSE TO CONCERN RAISED IN REFITEL BOVER LANGUAGE USED IN CLEARANCE FOR USS CALIFORNIA. USE OF QUOTE STATEMENT UNQUOTE IS CONSIDERED AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULATION TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE THAT US HAS GIVEN DUTCH SOME ASSURANCE BEYOND THAT CONTAINED IN STANDARD STATEMENT.

EMBASSY IS THEREFORE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM MFA THAT THIS LANGUAGE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE IN FUTURE NOTES. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO REQUEST THAT THESE NOTES CONTINUE TO BE CLASSIFIED.

3. APART FROM THE CONTENTS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR NPW VISITS THERE IS LINGERING CONCERN OVER THE BARK AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENT THAT WE EXPECT TO BE ISSUED FOR THE VIRGINIA VISIT. REFTEL C CITED THE SPECIFIC POINTS CAUSING DIFFICULTY IN THE BARK AUTHORIZATION, DATED JUNE 2, 1978; WHICH APPLIED TO THE USS CALIFORNIA VISIT TO ROTTERDAM JUNE 27 THROUGH 3 JULY 1978. REFTEL C ALSO CONTAINED AN EXPLANATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING AT LEAST A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTENT OF THE BARK WORDING, AND OBTAINING REVISED WORDING FOR FUTURE VISITS. PARA 7 OF REFTEL C PROVIDED US NAVATT WITH A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE TECHNICAL ISSUE INVOLVED IN THE WORDING OF PARA II C OF THE JUNE 1978 BARK DOCUMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 225773

- 4. REFTEL D INDICATED THAT GON ELIMINATED THE WORDS REGARDING THE US STANDARD STATEMENT FROM PARA IIC OF THE 1978 BARK AUTHORIZATION AS REDUNDANT SINCE REFERENCE HAD BEEN MADE TO THE STANDARD STATEMENT IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH. IN REFTEL E, NAVATT QUOTED A WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM DUTCH NAVY WHICH RESTATES THE GON RATIONALE FOR DELETING THE PORTION OF PARA IIC. IN PROVIDING THIS WRITTEN CONFIRMATION, RNLN MADE SEVERAL AMPLIFYING REMARKS WHICH, IF REDUCED TO WRITING, WOULD ALLEVIATE REMAINING CONCERNS.
- 5. TWO POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION ARE SUGGESTED.

A. REQUEST RNLN PROVIDE US NAVATT WITH A MEMO BASED ON PARAS 4 AND 5 OF REFTEL D STATING THAT QUOTE THE VISIT OF A U.S. NPW TO A DUTCH PORT IS APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BASED SOLELY ON THE ASSURANCES PROVIDED IN THE US STANDARD STATEMENT AND THE US PUBLIC LAW 93-513. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DOES NOT REQUIRE, OR IMPOSE, ANY SPECIFIC ASSURANCE REGARDING RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES EXCEEDING THAT CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF THE US STANDARD STATEMENT. THERE IS NO INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE BARK AUTHORIZATION

LETTERS ISSUED FOR EACH VISIT AND THE STANDARD STATEMENT ASSURANCES. END QUOTE

B. AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO AVOID REQUESTING FURTHER MEMOS OF THE GON, EMBASSY MAY PREFER TO HAVE US NAVATT PRESENT RNLN A MEMO WHICH CONTAINS THE SAME TEXT AS ABOVE, WITH AN APPROPRIATE OPENING. SUCH A NOTE LESS COMPLIMENTARY OPENING AND CLOSING WOULD READ: QUOTE BASED ON THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHE AND THE RNLN, WE HAVE BEEN

ASSURED THAT THE VISIT OF A U.S. NPW TO A DUTCH PORT IS APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BASED SOLELY ON THE ASSURANCES PROVIDED IN THE U.S. STANDARD STATEMENT AND THE U.S. PUBLIC LAW 93-513. IT IS THEREFORE OUR UNDERSECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 225773

STANDING THAT THE NETHERLANDS MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DOES NOT REQUIRE, OR IMPOSE, ANY SPECIFIC ASSURANCE REGARDING RADIO-ACTIVE DISCHARGES EXCEEDING THAT CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF THE U.S. STANDARD STATEMENT. THERE IS NO INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE BARK AUTHORIZATION LETTERS ISSUED FOR EACH VISIT AND THE STANDARD STATEMENT ASSURANCES.

6. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE SECTIONS OF THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT TO PROPOSE THIS CLARIFYING MEMO PRIOR TO GON DELIVERY OF THE BARK AUTHORIZATION FOR THE VIRGINIA VISIT. IF POSSIBLE, FROM DISCUSSIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND WITH DEFENSE WE BELIEVE THIS MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WOULD PERMIT THE BARK DOCUMENT TEXT USED FOR THE RECENT VISIT BY USS CALIFORNIA TO BE USED FOR ANY VISITING US NPW. THEREFORE, YOU MAY WISH TO APPROACH THE GON ON THE BASIS OF OBTAINING CLARIFICATION FOR A GENERALIZED BARK DOCUMENT. IN EITHER CASE, WE BELIEVE EARLY RESOLUTION IS DESIRABLE.

7. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH DEFENSE. CHRISTOPHER

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